

MAY 1992

Point three

PRICE 30p



In this issue:

Prideaux House celebrates 30 years

Toc H 2000 • Postcard from Germany


Relaunch in Townsville • Friendship Circles

The magazine of



TOC H

Point three

the magazine of  **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

IN THE WILDERNESS

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The wilderness experience is not restricted to Jesus. All of us at one time or another have felt lost, abandoned or depressed. Times when life seems dry and empty, when words seem useless and the future unclear. I suspect that such times can apply also to organisations. Perhaps Toc H feels as though it is in a wilderness at the moment.

The Gospel stories of Jesus and his forty days and nights in the wilderness (Matthew 4 and Luke 4) have something to teach us about this experience.

We should remember that Jesus had lived to the ripe old age of about 30, probably as a reasonably contented man plying his respectable trade of carpenter in the village of Nazareth. Maybe he felt a gnawing sense that he ought to be doing something else, but wasn't sure what. I imagine him, with this inner sense of uncertainty, going to meet John and being baptised in the river Jordan. There he had a powerful emotional and spiritual experience, and heard the call to ministry - but what and how?

As so often happens, his emotional 'high' was followed by a 'low' - a time of uncertainty, of searching for meaning and purpose. A time of discovery. Jesus went into the wilderness.

The opening words of the tempter are *If you are the Son of God*. The most subtle and damaging part of the wilderness experience is doubt and the diminished sense of self-confidence. And there is the challenge to vocation. A subtle undermining of the call to ministry and the temptation to seek objective proof of it rather than simply accept it.

He was hungry. The hunger was not for physical food, but for spiritual nourishment. The temptation was to see his future ministry as one of feeding the hungry, of eradicating poverty for ever. But that is not to be the way of ministry. Jesus knows from his own experience that what the world needs is meaning and purpose - Man shall not live by bread alone.

If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down... A ministry involving impressive feats would draw people's attention. Magical shows and displays of power should certainly prove that God is

here and cannot be ignored. The temptation here is to test that the vocation is real, that God really is in control. But Jesus knows that, whatever proof of God there may be in such exhibitions of power, these will not convey to people the reality of God, only a part of him. Jesus rejects the temptation to wield such power in the conviction that this style of ministry will not change the heart.

The third temptation is very appealing: a political solution. Found a party with yourself as the supreme head. Become a benign dictator. Rule the world with your own special knowledge and righteousness. An appealing prospect. But Jesus knows that such absolute power does corrupt absolutely. He also knows that coercion will not win hearts and gains only resentment, not love. It is not God's way.

None of these styles of ministry is God's way. They are too simple; easy ways out. The wilderness always offers easy ways out and they are not usually the right way. The wilderness challenges vocation and attempts to undermine it. The wilderness tests self-confidence and identity.

Jesus emerges from the wilderness with strengthened vocation and purpose and a surprising style of ministry. God is to be revealed through love and gentleness. It was the kind of love which led to a cross, but also to resurrection. It was a ministry which gave a new basis for relationship with God for every person.

Jesus emerged from the wilderness strengthened, not cowed, because he hung on to two things. He clung to his belief that God was with him and that God had called him to a special vocation.

In our own personal wilderness, and for Toc H, there will be doubts about our identity and our calling. We shall find ourselves tempted to easy but false ways out. To emerge strong we must cling to the two things we know to be absolute and true: that God is with us, and that we have been called to a special vocation.

*Almighty God,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and called to your service:
strengthen us by your Holy spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Revd J Alan Johnson
National Chaplain

Editor: Ruth Boyd
Editorial Assistant: Thomas Hill Long

Cover: Donovan (son), Betty, Cyril and Sue (daughter).
Cyril and Betty Cattell celebrate their Golden
Wedding Anniversary (see Update).

Photo: C A Cattell



Point three is printed on recycled paper

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, Point three, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Tel: 0296 623911. Fax: 0296 696137.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

Point three is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per year's subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

BRANCH NEWS

We would like to receive more news from branches about their work in the community, such as individual projects.

POSTCARD FROM GERMANY

March has been a busy time with the visit of the Director, much planning for the future and a general 'feel good' atmosphere about the place.

Our main event this month has been to welcome seven new members to Toc H. They are:

Bernhardt Füller, Gertrude Füller, Matheus Füller and Anja Füller (Paderborn); Lynn Rothwell, Jane Bridgeman and Elsie Thomas (Berlin).

This is very encouraging for the future and we expect more members to join over the next 3-4 months.



Director with the Füller Family - Anya, Matheus, Bernhardt and Gertrude



Director with New Berlin Members, Lynn Rothwell and Jane Bridgeman

The Director's visit was the highlight of the month. All five Toc H centres were visited. The week started with a management meeting at Paderborn followed by Light in the evening, the initiation of the Füller family into Toc H and a cocktail party with the Paderborn Group.

On Tuesday the Field Officers were on their way to Munster and Senden for a flying visit. Then on to Berlin in the afternoon.



Director with Paderborn group

Seemingly endless hours on the autobahn included an interesting diversion through the old DDR and the joys of driving on medieval roads.

Wednesday and the Berlin Group gathered in the Toc H centre to meet John Mitchell. Three new members were welcomed to Toc H and a most enjoyable coffee morning was held. It was good to see some old Toc H hands, now resident in Berlin, including a former Panzer Officer who was introduced to Toc H in a POW Camp in World War II.

The afternoon was taken up with a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and a brief trip round East Berlin.



Director chatting with Berlin group

On Thursday we were on the road again to visit the centres in Wolfenbuttel and Verden before finally getting back to Herford.



Malcolm Lowe

The Director departed on Friday, having driven 2500 kms in the week. If he felt like the Field Officer, he was under the distinct impression that he would never stop moving.

Anyway, back to normal now. I'll write again in April.

Malcolm Lowe
Zuchmeister ■

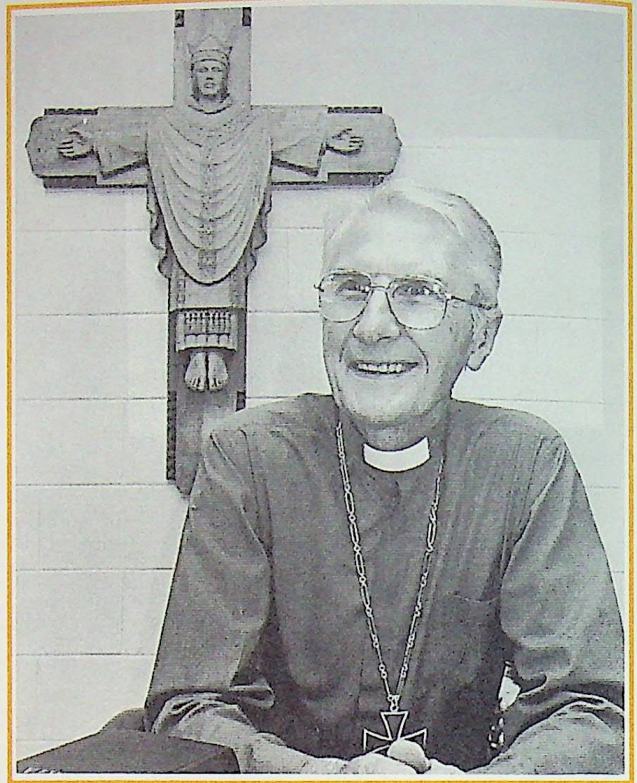
TOC H CELEBRATES ITS RELAUNCH IN TOWNSVILLE, NORTH QUEENSLAND

One of the highlights of 1992 in Townsville, North Queensland, Australia, will be the celebrations, planned for the first week of May, marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. And Toc H will be involved in them.

In April 1942 the Japanese prepared to attack the New Guinea town of Port Moresby. Had they been successful and captured it, they would have gained a base from which they could make air raids on the Australian mainland as a prelude to invasion. In the first week of May, Japanese troop ships, accompanied by a large number of warships, set out from bases in New Ireland.

Unknown to the Japanese, however, the Americans had broken their signal codes. The Allies decided to engage the Japanese fleet as it rounded the tip of New Guinea. This resulted in the sinking of the small Japanese cruiser, Shoto, and damage to both the USS Yorktown and USS Lexington. The Japanese troop ships returned to New Ireland.

May 8 was the decisive day of the battle, though losses on both sides were about even. The American carrier USS Lexington was lost, but Japanese losses in aircraft were very heavy. During the battle the allied fleet was supported by aircraft from Townsville, Charters Towers and other smaller bases throughout North Queensland.

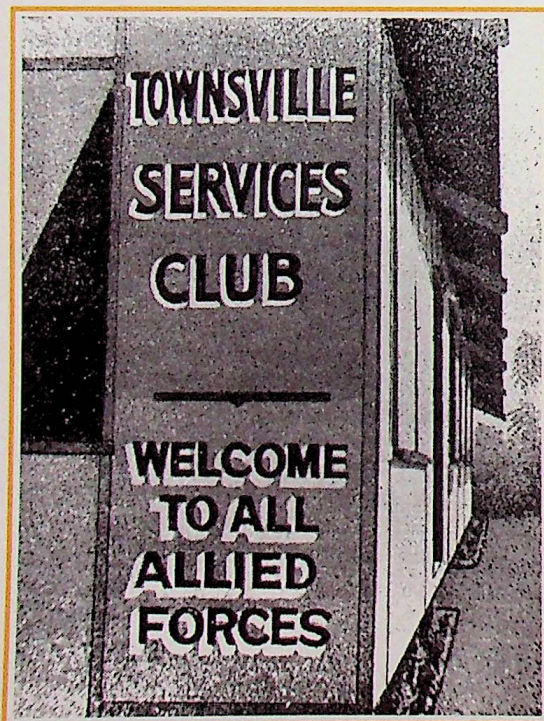


The Right Reverend John Lewis, Anglican Bishop of North Queensland and a Vice-President of Toc H in Queensland. He is most supportive of the initiatives to re-establish Toc H in North Queensland and to participate in the celebrations commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Despite the losses, the Battle of the Coral Sea was a great psychological victory for the allies: for the first time in the war, the Japanese had been turned back.

Before, and even more so after the battle, Townsville became a garrison city with service personnel from all over the world stationed there. Between 1942 and 1945 more than 500,000 American and Australian men and women passed through the city. Aircraft took off day and night from Townsville and other bases for raids on New Ireland, New Britain and other areas. Many of the casualties were treated first in Townsville hospitals.

It was in this setting that the Townsville Branch of Toc H went about its work, helping people in need in the same spirit that was born on the battlefields of Flanders in the Great War, 1914-18.

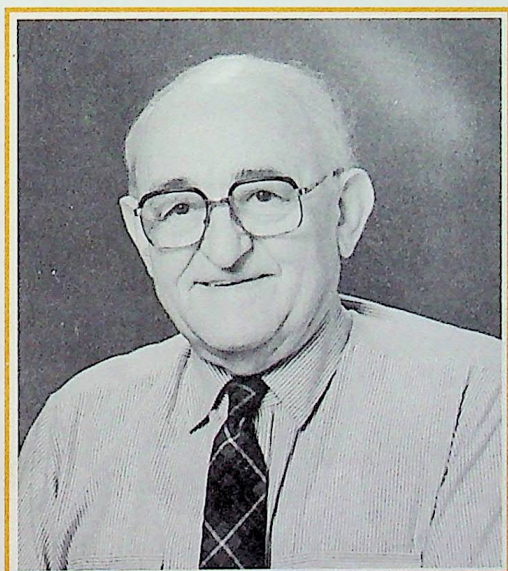


On 5 June 1943, the baby of Toc H Service Clubs in Australia opened its doors under the direction of Eric Smith, the Registrar of the Anglican Diocese of North Queensland. (The club was chaired by the able and energetic Charles Butler.) The Australian Comforts Fund gave its support to the club. It began with a cafe, which was kept going only by a supreme effort. The staff included a cook and a housekeeper, who were paid, and just a handful of helpers. However it soon became enormously popular with servicemen and women and quickly established itself as providing the finest meals in North Queensland. To cope with the demand upon its resources, kitchen hands came each day from the Australian Army Staging Camp at Oonoonba; volunteer workers began to roll in, housewives helped during the day and young girls volunteered to wait on tables after work. The small band of Toc H members worked cheerfully to develop the facilities at the club: dormitories were built, a reading and writing room was added, a store was opened and a piano procured. Dances were a regular Saturday night event.

The club was officially opened by Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Queensland, on 24 July 1943. He praised Toc H Townsville for its good work and for the excellent spirit in the club itself. In attendance at the opening were the Mayor of Townsville, high-ranking officers of both the Australian and American Armies, Navies and Air Forces, and an official of the Australian Comforts Fund.

In its first year of operation, the club served over 200,000 meals at a charge of 2/6d a head and provided accommodation for about 12,000 servicemen. The bunks, with crisp clean linen in an air-conditioned dormitory, were bliss after the mud, heat and foul conditions of jungle living in New Guinea.

In 1944 Eleanor Roosevelt was entertained at the club and expressed her admiration for the amenities. There were no fancy frills for this occasion!



Ray Geise, Area Commissioner Toc H Queensland Area



Fred Baggaley, a Toc H member of the Northern Suburbs Branch in Brisbane, and a co-ordinator of the Townsville celebrations in May. An ex-Welsh Guardsman and currently a Vice-President of Toc H, Queensland, Fred was one of the organisers of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982.

Now in 1992 Toc H has once more been revived in Townsville, thanks largely to the efforts of Ray Geise, the Area Commissioner of Toc H in Queensland, and the full support of the Right Revd John Lewis, the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, who knew Tubby Clayton. The bishop has been appointed a Vice-President of Toc H Queensland Area. In February a small group met in Townsville for the inaugural meeting of the Townsville Branch of Toc H. Its first mission will be to mount a display in the city museum of memorabilia from the Services Club. It will then hold a luncheon in the grounds of the museum on Thursday 7 May. It has also proposed to hold a Toc H service in St James' Anglican Cathedral before the luncheon.

The Townsville Branch of Toc H was originally founded by Eric Smith in 1930 and one of the most memorable feats of this earlier phase of the branch was bringing children from the bush to the seaside for part of their summer holidays. One of those children is now the President of Toc H Queensland - the Revd Allan Male. On New Year's Day 1932 the first group of children from Richmond and Cloncurry arrived in Townsville. For some of them, it was their first glimpse of the sea. The children were housed free of charge at St Anne's School and were fed and cared for by members of Toc H and a number of helpers. This was the beginning of the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme. The 60th anniversary of the children's camp is celebrated this year, and again Toc H is at the heart of the celebrations. Ernie Harding, one of the members much involved with the children's camps, lives in Townsville today, and he and his wife Margo are supporting the revival of Toc H in Townsville.

Marcia Bird, Secretary, new Townsville Branch
Fred Baggaley, Vice President, Toc H Queensland Area
Ray Geise, Area Commissioner, Toc H Queensland Area

TOC H 2000

Reading the editorial in March's *Point three* made me think about the nature of the jobs which we do in Toc H. In all of our towns and cities there are jobs to be done: providing concert parties for the elderly, Christmas parties and summer trips for handicapped youngsters, and many more. I could fill the page with a list of jobs in which we can fulfil the Four Points of the Compass and which make us feel better for doing them.

All of these things are worthwhile, they enhance people's lives and bring a little joy to many. But are they enough? Are they really a challenge, and if Toc H didn't do them, could someone else do them just as well?

There is a message for us if we want to hear. It comes from the people whom Shaw described as the undeserving poor. Those people who may not say thank you, who will not become doe-eyed at the thought of us helping them, who probably don't even want us to help them. It comes from the unloved and the unlovely. It comes from the sad and the damaged, the dirty and degraded.

It is a message that we should not need. It is something that we should know and that we should act on, if we had faith. It is simple and it is this.

PEOPLE NEED TOC H.

This should be all that we need to know. It should be our reason for being and should guide our actions. This one simple message should answer all of the debate about whether Toc H has a future. If only we believed it.

People in Friendship Circles need Toc H. They do not need another Social Services Day Centre, with occupational therapy and music therapy and art therapy. They need to be valued as individuals and welcomed as part of the family.

Young black kids in the inner cities need us. They need our care, but they also need our challenge. They do not need to be someone's good cause, they need to do things for themselves, and, just like the rest of us, they need the opportunity to help others. They need to be needed.

The homeless need us. Even those who take our ten pences and spend them on cider instead of tea. They need someone who will welcome them in friendship, as they are. Someone who will see, not only a person who needs help, but a complex individual with talents, abilities and desires.

We have a chance, in these and other areas, to touch people's lives with the spirit of Toc H.



Robin McSorley

The Four Points of the Compass

I. Friendship: 'To Love Widely'

To provide members with opportunities to develop a spirit of understanding and reconciliation.

Members are called on -
to welcome all in friendship,
to lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the
prejudices which divide men,
to see the needs of others as their own.

II. Service: 'To Build Bravely'

To enable members, with their varying gifts, to serve their fellows.

Members are called on -
to give personal service,
to study local, national and international conditions
and their effect on others, and by their example to
challenge their neighbours to seek the way of
Christ.

III. Fairmindedness: 'To Think Fairly'

To bring to members the knowledge and experience of others.

Members are called on -
to listen always to the views of others,
to find their own convictions,
to influence public opinion so that conflict may be
lessened by sympathetic and intelligent
understanding.

IV. The Kingdom of God: 'To Witness Humbly'

To work for a better world through the example of friendship, service and fairmindedness.

Members are called on -
to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man,
to practise the Christian way of life,
to help the truth to prevail.

In doing that, we also have the chance, while building bravely, to Love even more widely, lessening not only the prejudices of others, but of ourselves. We have the opportunity, in thinking fairly, to bring to members the knowledge and experience of others whose knowledge and experience is radically different from our own. We can witness humbly and follow more closely the ministry of Christ. If we refuse, if we abandon them, if we are afraid of commitment, if we stay within the boundaries of our own cosy existence - we may be doing worthwhile work, but are we then Toc H?

There is a lot of talk within the Movement about trying to recruit new members. The staff are to direct their activities towards this end and will be judged accordingly. We should do those things which will result in new recruits and not do those things which will not. In this way, it is believed, the future of Toc H will be safeguarded. It may be right. If our talents and energies are directed towards recruiting new members, then Toc H will continue to exist and may well grow in numbers, but to what end? What would be the point?

Membership of the Movement should be regarded as a part of life's journey, not a means of perpetuating an organisation. It should be our task to get Toc H into people, and not people into Toc H. As we walk a while in the company of strangers, what good would we do if we spent our time trying to get them to join our organisation? How futile that would be. How much more worthwhile if we used our time together to imbue them with the spirit of Toc H. So that they could carry that spirit with them through the rest of their life's journey, whether they became a member or not.

We are called upon in the Second Point of the Compass to give service to our fellows, and Toc H has a long and honourable record of service. We have never looked for a return for that service and I think that it would be wrong to look for such reward now. We should do what is right because it is right and not because it might bring more members. We can only follow the Fourth Point and help the truth to prevail if we act in truth and not for personal or organisational reward.

Act in truth and people will see and respect our actions. Some will join in our work, some will join the Movement, others will take the spirit of Toc H and apply it elsewhere. In that way we will grow, not just in numbers, but in stature. That is the way for Toc H to grow. With integrity.

There are others in society who need the spirit of Toc H. People who are not as readily identified, and who would certainly not see themselves as being in need of 'service'. Not those who are poor in material terms, but those whose poverty is spiritual. Those whose espousal of the philosophy of personal greed above collective need has left them materially wealthy but spiritually bankrupt.

People with money, influence and power need Toc H just as much as those with nothing. The people whose decisions

affect the lives of the rest of us need to 'see the needs of others as their own'. They need 'the knowledge and experience of others' and they need our 'example of friendship, service and fairmindedness'.

We are called upon in the Second Point to 'study local, national and international conditions and their effect on others'. The Third Point then tells us to 'influence public opinion so that conflict may be lessened by sympathetic and intelligent understanding'.

Toc H is full of members and staff with the ability, wit and intellect to make a real impact on public life. Indeed, many of them do; but not in the name of Toc H. We need to take the spirit of Toc H into the corridors of power and influence public opinion; not with the size of our membership, but with the depth of our commitment. We should unfetter the Central Council, and allow the debate of contemporary issues which was commonplace in the early years of the Movement, but which was banned in the 1970s.

In his article in March's *Point three*, Harry Brier said, quite rightly, that not everyone can go off into the Inner Cities, as we aren't all capable of it. He went on to say that they can at least support those who are able. That support does not need to be passive. It does not have to be simply providing the funding for that work, or support groups, valuable as they are. Those in Toc H who do the detailed work on the ground need the support of the rest of us in different ways. We can work to permeate the DSS and other agencies of Government with our caring philosophy, so that the homeless, the ill and the poor get better, more personal, treatment.

There are roles for all in this work. For those of us who can venture forth into the darker places and for those who cannot. There is work with the rich as well as the poor. For those of us who can walk the corridors of power with equanimity, as well as for those who would be intimidated by the rarified atmosphere.

The aims of Toc H, as set out in the Four Points of the Compass and the Main Resolution, give us very clear guidance about the life of Toc H. They do not talk of a private, contemplative life, whatever the size of the Movement. They are outward looking. They call upon us to see the needs of others as our own, to study local, national and international conditions, to influence public opinion, and to help truth prevail.

If we are to be true to these aims, the aims of Toc H as drawn up by Tubby Clayton, Dick Sheppard and Alexander Patterson, then we must seek out the decision makers in society, and those who influence them.

After all, where else but Toc H would a duke, an MP or a senior civil servant be granted the privilege of being treated as the equal of a car worker or a carpenter?

Robin McSorley
Manager, Cuddesdon House ■

PRIDEAUX HOUSE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Prideaux House, Hackney, was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 1 June 1962. The brand new building was built on the site of the old Toc H Mark III - the only purpose-built Toc H Mark.

Prideaux House is the home of the Community of Reconciliation and Fellowship. The Community celebrate their 20th anniversary this year as well as the 30th anniversary of the building, built thanks to the generosity of Lancelot Prideaux-Brune, whose family have had a long association with Toc H. The Toc H Mark closed in 1982 and the Community have been permanently based at Prideaux House since that time.

The Community Director, Revd Gualter R de Mello, is a former Toc H staff chaplain and ran Mark III for some years. He is the life-force of the building and his energy and enthusiasm and utter sincerity have been compared with that of Tubby Clayton. He is a very well known local figure and is dedicated to helping the community. Gualter is concerned about the chronic lack of funding for the Fellowship, which has meant that no new clients or referrals can be accepted. In this article, he describes life at Prideaux House.

Hackney is an area with a diverse mix of people which still retains a strong sense of community. But life in the inner city presents some very real problems, particularly for vulnerable groups within the community. The elderly are more vulnerable than most: inadequate services impact them directly and isolation, loneliness and fear of violence add to the pressures.

There are many examples of people in the community working to improve the quality of life for themselves and others. We are an ecumenical, inter-faith community committed to respecting and working for and with people. Due to lack of funds we have had to give priority to those who are already known to us and who need special attention. We concentrate much of our efforts on assisting our elderly folk in understanding and accepting change in this fast-changing society and, above all, we want to help our elderly

to improve the quality of their lives by sharing love and care with their neighbours.

It has been a long and hard process, but we have seen the great change in their lives and the lives of so many of the folk we know.

We focus our activities on those elderly who may have been relatively or thoroughly deprived, forgotten or isolated, as well as those in the caring professions. For us, it is important to carry out all this with a special concern for the important detail. We like to do things beautifully, love to introduce an element of humour, kindness and originality, to draw people into enlivening participation instead of making them passive recipients. We even hope that our love may spread further afield. Perhaps people will begin to find their circumstances intolerable and will demand and create a more human existence.

Prideaux House Activities

The Goodwill Bell is rung at 12.30 each day and the Peace Candle is lit, remaining alight for as long as the house is open as a dedication to Peace and Reconciliation. Guests are welcomed with warmth and there are many activities that they can participate in at the house. The Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays and Wednesdays and to mark any special Community or group events.

There is a Conference Centre offering facilities for up to 80 people.

We run a Luncheon Club three days a week where the quality of food, service and detail is a healing in itself. There are parties, outings, social events and many activities which bring people together in joy and fellowship.

The Charity Shop has become our only source of working capital, and without the effort put in by volunteers and supporters it would not be possible for Prideaux House to survive. It is possibly the best and cheapest charity shop in Hackney, and acts as an outreach centre for Prideaux House. Our motto at the shop is: 'No Shop - No Prideaux House'.

Faith in the City day studies are often held in order to give parishes and groups outside the urban area an opportunity to learn and to see for themselves what happens in a deprived area.

Monthly Christmas Lunches are an important part of Prideaux House's programme, when many senior folk are brought together for fun, laughter and a real Christmas lunch. Why should there be Christmas joy only once a year?!

Ye Olde Baby Inn - the Pop-in Centre - meets on Wednesday mornings, offering an opportunity for respite and chatter



The Revd. 'Tubby' Clayton places a commemorative stone in the growing wall of the new Mark III.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother with the Revd. Tubby Clayton, Lancelot Prideaux-Brune and former Administrator George Davis over a cuppa. The Memory Lane Club, on Friday afternoons, is an inspiration to all who, through their cherished memories, have much to teach us and wish to share their knowledge of Hackney's 'good old days'.



The Revd. Gualter R de Mello (standing) Blesses the Bread with Revd. Ian Thurston, Curate of All Hallows.

The Wellbeing Clinic - with acupuncture, aromatherapy, reflexology, herbal therapy, counselling, massage, chiropodial unit, hair-care and the support of the Body Shop concept programme - is open each day of the week to all and provides a much-needed alternative therapy to the people of Hackney.

The annual Huddleston Lecture on 'Positive Approaches to Fight Racism' is held once a year and, to commemorate the 30th anniversary year, the lecture will be given by Lord Hackney on 15 September 1992.

The annual Lecture on Human Communications was instituted in honour of Mr Lasse Fryk, a full-time volunteer in the early days of Prideaux House, who is now a lecturer in 'human communication' at Gothenburg University, Sweden.

The annual 'Super Do' commemorates the life and work of Arthur Super, late Mayor of Hackney who died in May 1985.

In Faith

During recent years, we have watched with anguish the fate of many voluntary organisations who depend solely on government and local authority subsidy. There but for the grace of God... and we have decided that it is essential for us to become self-sufficient so that our existence does not depend on the political vagaries of the times in which we live.

We also have found it increasingly difficult to reconcile our own Christian values with those of the purely politically-motivated interests. Therefore, we have had to find a new way as we stand at the crossroads of our 30th anniversary. Who assesses needs and distress? Who understands the lack of quality of life, loneliness, bereavement and a desperate lack of fellowship? We at Prideaux House stand firm. We believe it is right for us to be here. We firmly believe that there is a purpose for our work and we have put our hand into the hand of God in the absolute determination to face the future in faith. The same faith which has kept Prideaux House alive for 30 years.

We need help, and if you or those whom you love have been touched by Prideaux House and its work, we need your help now.

Our Prayer:

God, for what it has been, thank you.

For what it shall be, Amen.

Gualter R de Mello

A video film on the life and work of Prideaux House is available from Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, London E9 7DL (Tel: 081 986 6000). A donation of not less than £5 is requested. Also available are copies of the candid camera film produced as the result of the production of the video. A donation of not less than £5 is also requested. ■

THE FUTURE OF FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES

Why is Toc H not 'Contracting'?

Toc H has decided 'against entering a contract with Social Services...' (John Mitchell, *Point three*, March 1992). In his article justifying this decision, our Director argued that to enter such a contract would inevitably compromise one of Toc H's central tenets: that we treat all those with whom we work as 'equal friends', not 'clients'. I believe in this principle. All of us are made in the image of God, are of equal value to God, and deserve equal respect, whatever our labels. This is true whether we are recovering from mental illness, are social workers, volunteers, Toc H members, staff, whoever. What is wrong with John's argument is not his starting point but where he manages to finish. He is strong on knowledge of Toc H traditions, but weak in applying them to our contemporary situation. I shall argue that he should have made a more careful, comprehensive and collective appraisal of 'contracting' before deciding in principle against it. 'Contracting' presents both problems and opportunities for the voluntary sector. Voluntary groups need to be aware of both. Concentrating on one and ignoring the other is a short-sighted approach...'.¹

The National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, which provides the legislative framework for the development of 'contracting', has been described as 'one of the most significant pieces of social policy legislation in this century'. Its aim is to put the individual first, to enable those in need to become less dependent on statutory authorities and to have a greater choice of provision within their local communities. The act and the White Paper which preceded it promote the concept of 'a mixed economy of care' in which the maximum possible use is made of voluntary organisations and private provision. The role of local authorities and Health Districts is changed. They cease to be merely providers, but become also purchasers of services. They are seen as 'enabling authorities', who are to encourage 'new voluntary sector activity', provide 'clear agreements' and use contracts to clarify voluntary organisation roles, provide greater financial security and 'enhance the development of more flexible and cost-effective forms of non-statutory provision'.³ They are to establish the needs in their local communities, draw up a community care plan to meet them and ensure that the most pressing needs are efficiently and

effectively addressed. All this involves a huge challenge to the traditional role of Social Services departments. They are no longer simply providers of services to clients. Toc H does not yet seem to have grasped this point, and this failure is a fundamental flaw in John Mitchell's argument.

There are three key potential advantages of contracting for Toc H and other voluntary organisations. Firstly, they provide the chance to clarify expectations: what we expect in the way of support from those who finance our activities, what they expect from us, and, most importantly, what those with whom we are working can reasonably expect. Too often we can become lazy or confused in these areas. Toc H has rightly been developing standards for branches, projects, and other activities in recent years. 'Contracting' is simply an application of the same principle. Provision for ensuring adequate means of monitoring how well we are maintaining agreed standards is surely not something Toc H should object to. Friends can, and should, be accountable to each other. In a national or local organisation of any size this accountability needs to be formalised in some way. That entails monitoring and complaints procedures, which properly have a place in the negotiation of 'contracts'. Incidentally, since Toc H now has an established Appeals Procedure for staff, should we not in equity provide the same facility for members and volunteers? They too sometimes have legitimate grievances that need to be addressed if true and secure friendship is to be built.

Secondly, 'contracts' can provide Toc H with greater financial security and continuity of support - a vital factor when working with those who have often had to come to terms with considerable insecurity in their personal circumstances. 'Contracts' are typically for three years, rather than the one year that was the norm under previous funding arrangements, and still is in many cases.

Thirdly, 'contracting', in the context described above, signifies an important shift in the relationship between statutory and voluntary organisations. 'Contracts' do not require us to become 'an agent of the Social Services Department' (*pace* John Mitchell) any more than I



became an agent of my wife when we established our marriage contract. Rather a contract is simply 'An agreement between competent persons upon a legal consideration to do, or abstain from doing, some act'.⁴ Social workers in Cleveland, where our Friendship Circles originated, and in many other parts of the country share our desire to 'see Friendship Circle members as equals', and support our aim to apply this principle in our practice. It should perhaps be noted, by the way, that a 'service agreement', such as we have recently been seeking in Cleveland, for example, as an alternative to 'contracting', is just as much a 'legally enforceable contract' under the above definition as a more detailed 'service contract'. This means that we are currently pursuing an arrangement which would be inconsistent with the policy adopted by our Central Executive Committee last year.

Of course, there are dangers in 'contracting'. It could lead to the distortion of our aims and philosophy. But John is wrong to assume that it must do so, by definition. It is too pessimistic to assume that influence in negotiating and carrying out 'contracts' would be all one way. Could we not legitimately aim to be a positive influence upon the development of Community care, rather than assuming that we will inevitably be corrupted by philosophies often falsely attributed to others? It would be a tragedy if Toc H's reputation for pioneering work in establishing Friendship Circles, for example, was to be thrown away through a combination of ignorance and cowardice.

'Contracts' also have the potential, as with the National Curriculum in our schools, to build piles of paper-work

and bureaucracy, transforming personal service into 'paper service'. Quality of care can become overwhelmed by pressure for quantity of use, with diminishing opportunities to build the friendships and working partnerships on which John rightly places emphasis. Again, however, these are dangers to be avoided rather than a necessary part of all contracts.

I have briefly argued in this article that it is wrong for Toc H to reject 'contracting' in principle. The papers I have referred to cover the issues in greater depth and should certainly be studied by those governing our Movement if they have not already done so. Contrary to our Director's argument, there is nothing in our philosophy which is incompatible with 'contracting', and much to commend it. This does not mean that we should sign every contract, but it does mean we should be willing to negotiate contracts throughout the country as part of our continuing commitment to share with others the obligation '...in the interest of social welfare to provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities for... improving conditions of life particularly among young people, to give relief to the poor and aged, to give assistance to the sick, and to promote...other charitable purposes...' (Toc H Royal Charter, 1971). Perhaps, after all, our Director's grasp of Toc H tradition is not as strong as it might be. Almost 30 years ago Alec Churcher, that classic exponent of the best Toc H traditions, encouraged us to see 'The circle of... friendship... constantly being enlarged, and new ways of implementing the work of welfare agencies in terms of personal friendship' being constantly presented.⁵

If we fail to reverse our ill-judged decision to reject 'contracting', then I fear Toc H nationally will merely retreat further into its shell, away from the frontiers of need. We will continue on our own sweet, independent way - oblivious to the world outside. We will become less and less of an influence for good in the development of that true care in our communities which our country so sorely needs. Who will take up the challenge? It would be wonderful to see Toc H repent!

David Mayhew

Chaplain, Leader of staff, Cleveland Team

References

- 1 'Contracting - In or Out', NCVO (November 1989), p. 12.
- 2 Rodney Hedley & Colin Rochester, 'Contracts at the Crossroads', Centre for Voluntary Organisations at LSE (June 1991), p. 1.
- 3 'Practice Guidance and Practice Material for Social Services Departments and Other Agencies', DHSS Inspectorate, 1991.
- 4 'Contract and the Contract Culture: An Introductory Guide for Age Concern Groups', Age Concern England (July 1990); using Mozley & Whitelaw, *Legal Dictionary*.
- 5 Alec Churcher, 'Stirring The Mixture', p. 53.

The Elder, Apt 3,
200 H. Headwaters,
10000 Circle,
Wendover, Audubon,
Bucks, NPS 2 08

I am a Webb House member and Toc H member. I felt grim, sad and upset. I had no future before I started using Webb House.

When not working I spend my days down Webb with my friends or sometimes on Toc H projects. My life revolves around work and Webb. Both mean the world to me. I would be lost if the Webb lifeline was taken away.

We would be very sorry indeed if Webb was to close its doors.

From the Director: Tony's letter echoes what others are saying about their experience of Webb House and what they have said throughout its life. It is a lovely testimonial to what the house does. Can I assure him and others that there are no plans to close Webb nor any wish to do so. What we face is a question of how to find the future funding for Webb (which Toc H already subsidises significantly), but there is every intention that Webb shall be a real Toc H resource for many years to come.

Language and Gender

I am writing in response to David Hughes' letter in April's *Point three*.

I enjoy the English language; I enjoy listening to it spoken well and love reading it in its most beautiful and lyrical terms in the works of Shakespeare, Hardy, Dickens and Trollope, but I am not blind to the fact that as a living entity, language, like all life forms, needs to adapt and evolve to suit the times. If this were not so I would be writing this in Anglo-Saxon script and Middle English.

I am sad that David Hughes accuses Toc H of joining these trendies whose interest in semantics is 'paranoid'. As a Movement which is itself in a process of change and evolution (it being another vital force) it seems to me entirely right and proper that we should be aware of the need to develop language and not become stuck with usages that can be seen as hurtful or diminishing it to certain groups. I would take issue with him when he suggests that women are over-sensitive to the use of gender-based language. It is always easy to discount these perceptions of others which we have not experienced ourselves and thereby fail to understand the sense of hurt that can prevail. Quite clearly, some women do take the issue of language to extremes, but nevertheless I believe that we should attempt to recognise some of the hurts and heal them where we can without going over the top ourselves.

For this reason it seems to me that where we can use alternative, neutral forms of speech, while still retaining precision of meaning we should continue to do so. 'Chairer' is a good example of this - it indicates somebody (either male or female) who takes the chair.

I would be totally averse to embracing some of the wilder forms of avoidance of gender-based language (for example, some inner London authorities insist upon alternatives to *person* since the syllable *son* is, by definition, masculine). In my opinion this is nonsense.

I think that at present Toc H manages to achieve a fair balance between sensitivity and common sense.

Incidentally the sentence, 'an old black lady hobbling down the street', is not ageist or racist (although probably sexist). Ageism or racism can only be imputed when value judgements are made about individuals which have for their substance assumptions based upon the age or race of the individual. Simple descriptive sentences like 'an old, black woman hobbling down the street' don't qualify.

Jackie Bartlett
Central Branch

Toc H Holidays

I would like to pay tribute to the late Edwin Mason (Alvechurch Branch) whose death was written up in March's *Point three*. When Edwin was a member of Northampton Branch, he took me on the back of his motorbike to a holiday at Warden Manor in 1950. I subsequently visited Warden Manor for the next 26 years! Following the friendship at the Manor I have spent the last 16 years at the Warden Reunion Week at Alison House. Without Edwin's kindness in introducing me to Warden Manor I would not have enjoyed the companionship of Toc H holidays over the last 42 years.

Christopher S W Groves, Northampton

Some Pertinent Questions

What good is a District Branch member?

Four members of the North Bucks with Oxford District Branch met recently to discuss this question. We were joined by a Builder from the recently closed North Hinksey Branch, which raised the first question. Does a member who becomes a Builder when the branch folds lose his membership? Presumably yes, but from Chapter Three of the *Signpost* it seems that becoming a Builder is an alternative to resignation.

And what about membership of the Central Branch? We felt that any regular reader of *Point three* should find something in it which gives some recognition to these groups. Presumably nothing of importance arises from them, so why have them? Why can't we all just be members of Toc H, and if every member was obliged to subscribe to *Point three* that would help solve another problem: communication. An additional page from time to time, or a few loose inserts, could eliminate most if not all branch mailing and might be far more effective.

We spoke about Development Officers and the new development teams, but none of us had any idea what most of them were doing. Some news items in *Point three* occasionally would probably satisfy most of us.

We looked at a few items from last November's Central Council and wondered how a Toc H Group could ever get off the ground if it was expected to conform, from the word go, with the high expectations contained in the resolution on Basic Standards for New Local Branches and Groups. But if it must, why then go to the administrative expense of separating groups from branches when, to all intents and purposes, they appear to be the same?

And what a pity the word 'campaign' was included in the resolution on Membership, when all that appears to have been intended was that our publicity should appeal more to the mature person than it does at present. Some of our publicity, particularly when emphasising projects, appears to give the impression to the uninitiated that Toc H is a youth movement.

We have had two meetings so far and intend to have more. All of us have passed the age when we can organise and take on the responsibilities of a new branch, but individually we are still involved quite significantly in service with the community. Our combined ages amount to about 380 years and our association with Toc H to 260 years. But this second wind (or maybe it is only a breeze) is stimulating and satisfying.

Jeffery Christmas, Larry Holt-Kentwell, Harold Minty
(Builder), **Winnie Nelson, Peter Sutton** (Secretary) of the
North Bucks with Oxford District Branch.

Seeking Eternal Realities?

Despite a title of ethereal nature, my argument is about a very real practical decision. I wish to argue that Toc H branches and groups should not be defined, differentiated and divided by sex.

On a very simplistic level, it appears as an horrendous hypocrisy for a Movement which claims to be the breaker of barriers. Is it not a barrier, to promote a totalitarian exclusion of membership from a specific branch or group on the basis of sex? We only perceive and understand the terms 'man' and 'woman' by the significant things we attach to the words, which are the gender roles constructed by society. The very word 'woman' means not something of its own being but that which IS NOT man. By recognising in one of our main methods of work a split by sex, Toc H is reinforcing division and reinforcing the oppression of women in our society. When this topic was raised at Central Council last year the argument was put forward that men and women are essentially different and would always meet separately.

Politeness prevents me from describing such an argument in terms that would vent my anger about such statements. Men and women are only divided by what society predicates as their role. Arguments of physical difference and psychological difference are groundless. (See *Sex, Gender and Society* by A. Oakley and *Refusing to be a Man* by J. Stoltenberg.) I am the first to promote single sex groups as a model of working, with the aim of looking at these issues of sex and gender, and would also agree to it with respect to religions whose beliefs would not permit otherwise (although I also feel it is the role of Toc H to challenge this, too). What I cannot support is the Movement presenting itself through its basic unit in such a display of division. What is it after all that we are working for if not to smash down these barriers that 'disable' our society?

...there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, *male and female*, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:28)

The vision of community (the kingdom of God, if you so believe) is the goal of our work and should be its model and guide. We are one not only in Christ but one in our uniqueness as individuals, not one of a collective term created by men, i.e. men and women. If we truly seek the eternal realities, how can we continue to set such store by defining, differentiation and division based on our perceptions of what is after all a very, very temporal body.

Neal Terry
Tyne and Wear

BRANCH NEWS

Elmstead Joint Branch report that they have maintained a good attendance at their monthly meetings, where they have had a number of speakers giving talks on a variety of interesting subjects. The Hon. Secretary Myrtle Betts writes: 'We are mainly Senior Citizens and have limited transport, but we have helped with fundraising for the Haywain District Project...and we have continued to help various causes, local and international. We have several events lined up for the coming year... We shall no doubt continue to knit blankets, of which we sent 50 during the [past] year for distribution by co-workers of Mother Teresa'.

In February **Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch**, joined by the lady singers of the Southbourne Townswomen's Guild, gave a series of short variety concerts at four elderly peoples' homes in the area. They were thoroughly enjoyed by both the audiences and the performers.

John Anderson of **Broughty Ferry Branch** writes: 'We continue to take concert parties to entertain the old folk in the local Royal Victoria Hospital on a monthly basis. We have had several entertainers, including the local Gaelic choir and Cecilian choir singing "weel-kent" songs of yesteryear which the patients really enjoy and even join in, to the entertainers' delight. We have extended this by going to other nursing homes in Dundee'.

Tunbridge Wells East Branch held another of their very popular children's discos at St Phillips church on Saturday 29 February. The branch *Newsletter* notes that parents who wish to stay for the disco will be warmly welcomed and will be admitted 'free of charge'!

Buckingham Branch's March *Newsletter* had these wise comments, which the editor thought members would like to share:

It is surprising how many elderly people, especially the house-bound, crave for love and affection. One pensioner admitted to me the other day that the only kiss she receives is a "Religious" one from her local Minister! Come on, drop your British reserve, and set a new pattern. Go out and radiate some affection to those who really need it. Remember one of the four points of the compass is to LOVE WIDELY.

Harpenden and St Albans Branches have helped to run a weekly canteen for residents' visitors at Cell Barnes Hospital in St Albans for many years. Grace Clayton, Chairman of SE and W Herts District, writes that they are still able 'to keep the teapots pouring' thanks to support from the youth groups of **Cuffley Toc H**, the Harpenden Methodist church and St Albans Mormon church. **Hoddesdon Branch** has been involved in transporting relatives of hospital residents for visits and in taking residents on outings. Holidays for the hospital residents have included trips to Toc H centres like Cuddesdon, Alison House and Talbot House. These holidays have been generously supported by the Friends of the Hospital, local Round Tables, Ladies' Circles, the Prince's Trust and Toc H branches. Development Officer John Burgess has been much involved in these and other activities in the area, as have Bob Barker and his wife Milanka, who retire from project leadership this year.

'WHAT, NO GNOMES?' GARDEN PROJECT AT COLSTERDALE



Wellingborough Toc H Young Ones were enthusiastically committed to organising their first project. This was at the Colsterdale Centre in October of last year and involved creating a garden. The volunteer gardeners, reflecting several different backgrounds, would work together and live as a community for a week led by Sarah Cottingham, Chairwoman of the Wellingborough Young Ones and Mick Spencer, a member of the WOTCH group in Walsall. Five of the volunteers were Wellingborough Young Ones and the others were recruited through the Projects Booklet, with the invaluable help of Valerie O'Dwyer, Project Coordinator. Two of them were Duke of Edinburgh participants, one was from Deerbolt, the young offenders' institute, and two were involved with MIND in Redcar.

There were four days to complete the job, working from 9.30 to 12.30 and, after a break for lunch, on to 3.30 or 4.00, depending on light. Each evening was devoted to a different theme for discussion.

The general feeling was that it was a very successful project and as well as a lovely garden important new relationships had been formed and the challenges successfully met. A reunion is being held this spring.

Sarah Cottingham



Congratulations to **David Brown**, Deputy Centre Leader, Munster, and his wife **Michelle**, on the birth of their daughter **Caitlin**.

Congratulations to the **Revd Neil Llewellyn**, who has been appointed as Chaplain, St George's, Ypres, and Talbot House.

Congratulations to **Hubert and Enid Cozens** who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 19 April. They have been members of Toc H for over 60 years and still read *Point three!* Very Toc H!



Up Date

Congratulations to **Betty and Cyril Cattell** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. (See front cover)

Cyril says, 'It's been a marvellous partnership enriched not only for the two of us but the family as a whole by our involvement in Toc H. Indeed, a time of great thanksgiving for us all.'

'I joined the staff of Toc H in 1954 working in Kent and Sussex. In 1961 I was appointed General Secretary, a post I held until 1969. At that time I resigned to take up an

appointment as Senior Regional Officer of The Spastics Society. I continued that work until my retirement at the end of 1984.

'Whilst I was General Secretary my son Donovan joined the staff, working first in Germany then Southampton and finally the Western Region. He then went on to Suffolk College to undertake Social Work training. Sue - while waiting to take up nursing training at King's College Hospital - worked as a secretary in the Toc H Accounts Department. Betty has been our constant support and encourager.

'In a lay capacity (after 1969) I was a member of the CEC for a number of years, four of which were as Chairman. In 1986 I was appointed a Vice-President of Toc H'.

Welcome to 19 New Members

The following new members were registered during March

Julian Deane (Avon District Branch)
Thomas K Ross (Broadway M)
Mrs Irene O Holman (Buckingham J)
Paul W Cattermole (Cleveland District)
Mrs Edith Gascoign (Downend W)
Kevin J Eastwood (Huddersfield District)
Brian James (Guisborough J)
Geoffrey W Armstrong, Mrs Sandra Armstrong (Leigh J)
Mrs Elsie A Haynes, Robert V Haynes, Mrs Joan Knight,
Mrs Nora A Mitchell (Milford-on-Sea J)
Mrs Hazel D Scarlett (North Bucks with Oxford District)
Mrs 'Kate' Bowles (Sandown/Shanklin J)
Mrs Phyllis Adgie (Sheaf (Sheffield) J)
Ernest Williams (Station J)
Arthur G Laming (Wigmore J)
John D Lee (Wellingborough M)

Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In January — Frank E Brown (Bolton District)
Isabelle Monteith (Paris)
In February — Lois M Bailey (Loddon Vale District)
Ann P Dainton (South Dorset District)
Joseph A Nicholls (Bexhill-on-Sea)
In March — Aldred S "Skegg" Blanchard (E C & Tower Hill)
Jack Carter (Buckingham)
Ida E Davies (Bournemouth & Christchurch)
Leslie C Duncan (Southampton District)
Victor C Hardacre (Glamorgan District)
Canon Harold G Lovell (S E & W Herts District)
Frederick G Marshall (Long Eaton)
Herbert "Paul" Pedrick (Wessex District)
Leslie Parsons (Chalfonts)
Emma L Robins (Nailsea)
Vivienne Spray (St Thomas - Exeter)
John Tamsett (Wigmore)
Glen Wilson (Chalfonts)
Not previously recorded William I G Hughes (Llandrindod Wells)
M Jack Osborne (Wessex District)

SPECIAL TRIBUTES

Canon Harold Guildford Lovell, the last surviving army chaplain from the Great War, died on 15 March at the age of 102. He was priested in Jamaica and apart from his service in the war worked in Kingston parishes until 1949. Harold became an honorary canon of Kingston Cathedral in 1939 and canon emeritus in 1950, shortly after his return to England due to his wife's illness. Here he served in the Hertfordshire parishes of Bishop's Hatfield, Anstey and Widdial, and finally as rector of Essendon, a parish near Hatfield House in the gift of the Marquess of Salisbury. Following his retirement in 1964, he lived with his wife Mary in a house at Hatfield Park and continued to act as private chaplain to Lord Salisbury and the Cecil family. During his service as an army chaplain in Flanders, Harold became a friend of Tubby Clayton. He established Toc H in Jamaica when he returned there after the war and remained a member of the Movement until his death. He was interviewed for *Point three* shortly before his death and spoke warmly of the comradeship that Toc H offers. To know him was to love him. He was truly blessed with Grace. RB

Paul ('Peter') Pedrick, who died in March, joined Toc H in Exeter in the 1930s. In 1935, when Tubby Clayton called for volunteers to go to West Africa to work among lepers, Peter was one of five chosen out of a huge response. (The volunteers went to Nigeria to spend the next five years among leprosy sufferers.) During the war, Peter served as captain in the West African Frontier Forces in Nigeria and Sierra Leone before returning to Britain and joining the Royal Engineers. He remained in England after the war running his own business, but for a time returned with his wife and family to Nigeria as a Leprosy Control Officer. Over the years Peter belonged to Toc H branches in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset. His great interest remained the relief of leprosy and he worked tirelessly for BELRA (later LEpra), raising funds and organising events to make the public aware of this terrible disease. DG

Long Eaton Branch sadly report the death of Frederick Marshall on 14 March aged 93 years. Fred was a founder member of the branch (1931) and in the early years held various offices in both the district and area. His influence and enthusiasm were the key factors in the life of the branch and the forming of other branches in the area. Unfortunately his later years kept him at home but his interest and support never wavered. RCG

Mme Isabelle Monteith, one of the best loved members of Toc H, died on 30 January in her 91st year. A founder member and secretary of the Paris Branch for over 15 years, she played a key role in keeping it alive after the Liberation. Even when we were reduced to only six members, she always believed in the survival of the branch and played her full share in visiting our elderly, organising the annual Christmas party which often entertained over 70 guests and, later, in getting started the 'seniors' who still meet for a monthly tea. She was awarded the MBE, which she indeed deserved. MD

The Revd F E Brown died in January. He was 89 years old and a lifetime supporter of Toc H since his early years as a young soldier and a friend of Tubby. He belonged to Chester and York Branches. For many years he made a pilgrimage to the Old House and one year did the summer relief warden's job. When he retired from active parish work, he donated a number of clerical stoles to be used in the Upper Room. AES

Buckley Branch regret to report the sad loss of Lynwood Williams, who died while on a visit to New Zealand. Employed as an industrial chemist, Lyn had been involved with Toc H for some 30 years and had held office for the past 24 - as branch chairman for 13 years and secretary for 11 years up to the time of his death. A conscientious and meticulous worker, he played a part in all branch activities and will be greatly missed by his many friends. GE

WEIRSIDE,
Chapel Stile, Near Ambleside, Cumbria

SPECIAL WINTER OFFER

For any period from Monday to mid-day Friday in the months of December 1992 and January 1993, an inclusive charge of £50 for any party up to 16 strong. The Centre is fully equipped for self-catering parties and is heated with storage heaters. There is an excellent drying room. Car park.

Further information from: George Lee
School House, Tanworth in Arden
Solihull, West Midlands B94 5AJ
Tel: 0564 42391

NATTOC

Are New Projects for 1992

Why NATTOC? Because they are joint projects between Toc H and the National Trust. They all involve some conservation work - the main focus of the National Trust - a client group and a real challenge in breaking down barriers and group living.

For further information
or to apply contact:

Lesley Whittaker, 7 Wymering
Avenue, Oaklands Estate,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
WV11 2PH.
Tel: 0902 721854

LEEDS DISTRICT TOC H

BAND CONCERT

by the
YORKSHIRE EVENING POST BAND

Saturday 19 September 1992 at 7.30 pm

in Ossett Town Hall

Tickets: £3.00 and £2.50 (with 50p
concessions) available shortly.

Please contact: Ken or Cynthia Quayle
39 Longfield Drive
Rodley
Leeds 13
Tel: 0532 556668

Prideaux House

The Community of Reconciliation
and Fellowship



Prideaux House is not an hotel, nor a boarding house, nor a hostel. It is the home of a community of people who have found their faith in God very real and relevant.

Our aim is to offer good quality accommodation in a homely atmosphere for that short break in London, near the West End, theatres, shops, museums and concerts. Ideally suited for persons attending conferences, courses, business meetings, interviews, and for those in need of relaxation. Perfect for groups or persons wanting peace and quiet.

Accommodation is offered in The Stanley Coulson Wing of our Community House and Centre in ten single (only) rooms, and all proceeds support our work in Hackney.

Each bedroom has a very high standard of furnishing with own wash-basin. There are good shower facilities, lounges, TV Room, small garden and the Community Chapel. Wholesome cooking is the norm. Sadly, accommodation is not suitable for children, smokers and persons on specific orthodox diets.

For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical
Interfaith Centre, 10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL.
Telephone: 081-986 6000

POINT THREE FOR THE BLIND

The magazine is now available in tape form for readers who are either blind or partially sighted. Several members have already taken advantage of this excellent facility which is only £3, including postage, for 12 months. Write to: Harry C Bailey, 27 Harrowden Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3BG

Christian Singles, friendship contacts,
fellowship groups, social events, nationwide.
Weekend Houseparties. Holidays.

Christian Fellowship Friendship, Dept 23B,
Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2QD

CUDDESDON HOUSE HOLIDAY WEEKS 1992

EXPLORING OXFORDSHIRE

Saturday 18 to Friday 24 July - Leaders Barbara and
Ken Prideaux-Brune and Christine Bostock

Saturday 22 to Friday 28 August

Leaders Daphne Dawes and Mary and John Edwards

A variety of options available to suit your energies and interests including: walking in the area, a river trip, visits to surrounding villages, visits to gardens and stately homes, visits to places of interest in Oxford City, sampling hosteleries!

Cost for either holiday week £160 to include full board and daily transport.

For further information on the 'July Week' contact:

Mr Ken Prideaux-Brune
65 Station Road
Amersham, Bucks HP7 0BB
Tel: 0494 433871

and on the 'August Week':

Miss Daphne Dawes
338 Bath Road
Saltford, Bristol BS18 1TQ
Tel: 0225 873022

Booking for
either week to
include £50
deposit.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to Point three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Hythe, Kent - homely accommodation in members home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Tournay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407